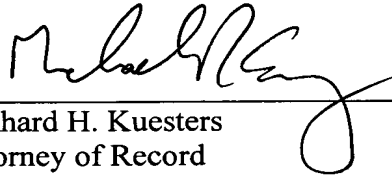


REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview granted to Applicants' representative on March 2, 2005, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Specifically, the Examiner proposed to amend Claims 7 and 18 to recite heat treating in a non-oxidizing atmosphere "*for about 30 minutes.*" The Examiner requested an answer to his proposed amendment by March 4, 2005. During the interview, Applicants requested more time to consider this matter. The Examiner stated that he could wait until March 7, 2005, at the latest, and suggested filing a Request for Continued Examination should more time be needed. Therefore, Applicants herewith file a Request for Continued Examination and respectfully request formal consideration of the IDS filed on January 7, 2005, resubmitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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